



2002 NWS Drought Outlook Workshop

The National Weather Service is holding a one-day "**Drought Outlook**" product evaluation workshop to be held April 3, 2002 at the NWS training facility in Kansas City, Missouri, located just 5 minutes from the Kansas City airport. We seek feedback from the agricultural community on the scientific basis, interpretation, performance, possible and planned improvements, release times, etc. of our monthly Drought Outlook. The Drought Outlook provides general forecast guidance on drought trends out three and one half months from the monthly issuance date.

We are particularly interested in confirming speakers (15-20 minutes) from the following agricultural industries and customer bases:

- Policy makers
- Agribusiness, including producers and processors
- Commodities/futures
- Insurers
- Market advisory services/educators

The workshop will use Sonka and Changnon's "Midwestern Impacts of the 2000 Drought Forecasts" (2001) document as a centerpiece for discussions.

NWS speakers will explain the Drought Outlook including the history behind its origin, its scientific basis, interpretation, performance, planned improvements, access, and release times. Customers will discuss their use of the Drought Outlook, strengths, weaknesses, and changes and improvements they would like to be made to the product. The workshop will adjourn after a wrap-up general summary session with recommendations.

You can register for the workshop online at:

<http://205.156.54.206/om/csd/droughtsub.html>

or you can contact Mike Brewer at 301-713-1867, x123, or via email at:

Michael.J.Brewer@noaa.gov

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Agenda

WELCOME AND NWS PRODUCT OVERVIEW

8:15	Welcome/Workshop Overview	Bob Leffler
8:30	Objectives	Bob Livezey
8:45	Description of NWS Drought Outlook	Douglas LeComte
9:45	Break	

DROUGHT FORECAST IMPACTS

10:00	Midwest Impacts of the 2000 Drought Forecasts	Steve Sonka, University of Illinois Stan Changnon, Illinois State Water Survey
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COMMODITIES/FUTURES

11:00	Commodity Considerations	Joe Victor, Allendale
11:25	Commodities Comments	Bryce Anderson, Data Transition Network

LUNCH

11:45	Working Lunch (catered)	Keynote Speaker: Mark Sovoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center
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CUSTOMER INTERFACE

1:00	RCC Perspective	Kelly Redmond, Western Region Climate Center
1:30	AASC Perspective	Jay Grymes, AASC
2:00	National Drought Mitigation Center	Mike Hayes
2:15	Central Region/WFO	Mike Looney

FEDERAL AGENCIES

2:30	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Brad Rippey
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POLICY MAKERS

2:45	Interim National Drought Council	Ane Deister
3:15	Western Governor's Association	Shaun McGrath
3:45	Break	

WRAPUP

4:00	Open Discussion/Summary	Bob Livezey
5:00	Adjourn	